

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-21 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 11 being the independent claims. Claims 1 and 5 are sought to be amended. Specifically, claim 1 is sought to be amended to recite that “the transmit channel of each SERDES lane is phase-locked with a corresponding receive channel *of a different SERDES lane than that of the transmit channel.*” Support for this amendment can be found, for example, in FIGs. 5A and 5B as well as paragraph [0057] of the specification as originally filed. Claim 5 is sought to be amended to conform to the amendment made in claim 1. Claim 4 is sought to be cancelled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter therein. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

In the specification, paragraph [0056] is sought to be amended to change the word “interlane” to --intralane--. It is believed that use of the word “interlane” was an inadvertent typographical mistake on the part of the drafter. Support for this amendment can be found in the context of paragraph [0056] itself. This change is believed to introduce no new matter, and its entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action states on page 2 (section 3) that claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 7,133,648 B1 to Robinson *et al.* (hereinafter, “Robinson”). Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn based on the following remarks.

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the rejections, and solely to expedite prosecution of the present application, independent claim 1 is sought to be amended to recite that “the transmit channel of each SERDES lane is phase-locked with a corresponding receive channel of a different SERDES lane than that of the transmit channel.” Robinson does not teach or suggest this feature, as is apparent from the features recited in Applicant's claim 6, which was indicated to be allowable in the Office Action. Accordingly, Robinson does not disclose each and every feature of amended claim 1, and therefore does not anticipate claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over Robinson for at least the reason provided above. Claims 2 and 5 depend from claim 1 and are patentable for at least the reason that claim 1 is patentable, and further for their own respective features. Claim 4 is sought to be cancelled, and therefore the rejection of claim 4 is now moot. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action states on pages 3-4 (section 6) that claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Robinson in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,434,719 to Miller *et al.* (hereinafter, “Miller”). Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn based on the following remarks.

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and is patentable for at least the reason that claim 1 is patentable, and further for its own features. Miller does not cure the deficiencies of Robinson. Therefore, based on the discussion herein, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 3 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 11-21 and the allowable subject matter in claims 6-10.

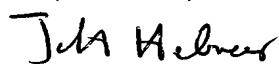
Conclusion

The stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Jeffrey T. Helvey
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,757

Date: 16/3/08

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600
877070_1.DOC